

Langwith bar to face closure and conversion into an 'artistic space'

By Milda Sabunaite
 DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

LANGWITH BAR looks set to close after the college Provost admitted a lack of custom has left it a "dead space".

John Issitt, Langwith College Provost, has published a new report that contains plans to replace the bar with a coffee shop as part of a proposal to change Langwith College into an "artistic and educational socialising place." Issitt said, "The reality is the bar is not working", and economic pressure has made the current setup as unsustainable".

The new project would provide space for various artistic activities such as music and drama events, as well as visual arts exhibitions. The space would also

be available for conference use in the holidays.

Issitt said, "The difficulty is making the business plan and convincing all the powers-that-be to cooperate, negotiate and make it work." He admitted that the project will require a lot of financing, requiring an investment from the University, but said "the economic viability of it is built into it right from the beginning".

Zach Pepper, a Langwith Bar Rep, has expressed doubts about the financial success of the project. Pepper said, "It sounds like a good idea in principle but it's going to cost a lot of money, so whether it's realistic it needs to be seen." He also admitted that he was apprehensive about plans to replace the current bar with a smaller bottle bar that would only be accessible dur-

ing events, saying "I think it will decrease the viability of large events."

"I can't realistically say that we want the bar to continue as it has been because it has not proven popular. We're happy to recognise that Langwith works better as a venue than as a bar." He also blamed the bar's unpopularity on the fact that it is located between Derwent and Vanbrugh college bars, both of which are considerably larger.

Langwith College JCRC Chair Won Youn has reacted with concern over the plans to get rid of the bar. "It's the one thing that we really take pride in."

"It's a place where you go and meet your friends. It's a socialising area, and if that goes, it will affect us quite badly, but we'll have to deal with it," Youn said. "Hopefully something better will come".

However, he assured students that the JCRC will take further action to save the bar from being closed down. Youn said, "We're going to go all the way, even if we find ourselves losing it. We're not going to give up that easily".

The new Langwith venue project plans are currently on public display for staff and students in the Langwith JCR.



Langwith bar is set to be closed in the near future. Photos: Milda Sabunaite



Empty seats have become the norm in Langwith bar

SU forum overrun with pornography

By Alex Stevens
 NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE YUSU forum website, designed to give prospective students an idea of life at the University of York, has been inundated with links to pornographic websites. The website is moderated by the six sabbatical officers of the YUSU Executive.

The spam posts, including links to such sites as 'Black Snake Moan (2007)'™ and 'Come chat with me (naked Pics)', started to appear on February 4, with as many as fifteen being posted every day.

Nouse alerted YUSU officers of the content of the website late last week, and the forums were restarted over the weekend. The forum

thread 'Information', the page most affected by spammers, has been taken down and replaced with a thread named 'Student Life'. Within hours of being set up the page already contained links to a number of spam links, including a site titled 'Topless'.

YUSU President Rich Croker said he was aware of the problem and that Communications Officer Colin Hindson has moved to wipe the forum website of all offensive material. Croker said that "whilst we try to maintain the content of the site on a regular basis, unfortunately spam is something that occurs."

He added that YUSU officers are taking action to correct the problem and are

seeking advice from technical experts to try and secure the website against unwanted posters.

However, by Sunday evening all nine posts on the forum contained links unrelated to York students, mostly for pharmaceuticals and gambling websites.

Kate Douglas, a first year Social Policy and Social Work student in Derwent said, "I reckon it's pretty sad that YUSU can't even keep its websites in order. I know it's not the sabbas' [sabbatical officers] fault but it still makes the entire Student Union look pretty stupid. While I'm sure there are some people who will enjoy it, it can't look great for prospective students who want to find out about York."



Calling all Gaelic Footballers at the University of York

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